

Appl. No. 09/994,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 2, 2004
Page 3

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
sensing an electrical signal with a first electrode;
commencing a timing window;
inhibiting delivery of a pacing therapy by the first electrode subsequent to termination of an escape interval during the timing window; and
recording the electrical signal as an Invalid sense when a second electrode fails to sense the electrical signal in the timing window.
2. (Original) A method of claim 1, further comprising:
ending the timing window; and
resetting an escape interval when the second electrode senses the electrical signal in the timing window.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the second electrode senses the electrical signal in the timing window.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first electrode is the a left ventricular electrode and the second electrode is a right ventricular electrode.
- Claim 5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The method claim 1, further comprising:
performing a morphological analysis of the electrical signal; and
recording the electrical signal as an invalid sense as a function of the morphological analysis.

Appl. No. 09/994,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 2, 2004
Page 4

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising counting the number of invalid senses during a monitoring period.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising adjusting therapy as a function of the number of invalid senses during the monitoring period.
9. (Original) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for causing a programmable processor to:
- sense a electrical signal with a first electrode;
 - commence a timing window;
 - inhibit delivery of a pacing therapy by the first electrode subsequent to termination of an escape interval during the timing window; and
 - record the electrical signal as an invalid sense when a second electrode fails to sense the electrical signal in the timing window.
10. (Original) The medium of claim 9, the instructions further causing the programmable processor to:
- end the timing window; and
 - reset an escape window when the second electrode senses the electrical signal in the timing window.
11. (Original) The medium of claim 10, wherein the second electrode delivers pacing therapy, the instructions further causing the programmable processor to inhibit pacing therapy with the second electrode until the expiration of the reset escape interval.
12. (Original) The medium of claim 9, wherein the first electrode is a left ventricular electrode and the second electrode is a right ventricular electrode.

Claim 13. (Canceled)

Appl. No. 09/994,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 2, 2004
Page 5

14. (Original) The medium of claim 9, the instructions further causing the programmable processor to:
- perform a morphological analysis of the electrical signal; and
 - record the electrical signal as an invalid sense as a function of the morphological analysis.
15. (Original) The medium of claim 9, the instructions further causing the programmable processor to count the number of invalid senses during a monitoring period.
16. (Original) The medium of claim 15, the instructions further causing the programmable processor to adjust therapy as a function of the number of invalid senses during the monitoring period.
17. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
- sensing an electrical signal with a left ventricular electrode;
 - commencing a timing window;
 - inhibiting delivery of a pacing therapy by the left ventricular electrode subsequent to termination of an escape interval during the timing window; and
 - recording the electrical signal as an invalid sense when a right ventricular electrode fails to sense the electrical signal in the timing window.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
- sensing the electrical signal with the right ventricular electrode in the timing window;
 - ending the timing window;
 - resetting an escape interval; and
 - inhibiting pacing with the right ventricular electrode until the expiration of the reset escape interval.

Appl. No. 09/994,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 2, 2004
Page 6

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising ending the timing window and delivering a right ventricular pace when a ventricular escape interval expires in the timing window.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising delivering a left ventricular pace and a right ventricular pace after the timing window expires.

21. (Currently Amended) The method claim 20, further comprising:
~~inhibiting the left ventricular pace in the timing window; and~~
delivering the left ventricular pace immediately after the timing window expires.

22. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a first electrode for placement proximal to a heart;
a second electrode for placement proximal to the heart;
a controller that senses an electrical signal as an invalid sense when the controller fails to sense the electrical signal with the second electrode in the a timing window, wherein the controller inhibits delivery of a pacing therapy by the first electrode subsequent to termination of an escape interval during the timing window.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller ends the timing window and resets an escape interval when the controller senses the electrical signal with the second electrode in the timing window.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller counts the number of invalid senses during a monitoring period.

Appl. No. 09/994,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 2, 2004
Page 7

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the controller adjusts therapy as a function of the number of invalid senses during the monitoring period.
26. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller performs a morphological analysis of the electrical signal.
27. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the first electrode is a left ventricular electrode and the second electrode is a right ventricular electrode.
28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the controller delivers a right ventricular pace and a left ventricular pace after the timing window expires.
29. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller comprises a microprocessor.
30. (Original) A method comprising:
in a first monitoring period,
sensing at least one electrical signal with a first electrode,
commencing a timing window having a first duration and
recording the electrical signal as an invalid sense when a second electrode fails to sense the electrical signal in the timing window having the first duration; and
in a second monitoring period,
sensing at least one electrical signal with the first electrode,
commencing a timing window having a second duration.
31. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising recording the electrical signal as a valid sense in the first monitoring period when the second electrode senses the electrical signal in the timing window having the first duration.

Appl. No. 09/994,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action f F b. 2, 2004
Pag 8

32. (Original) The method claim 30, further comprising:
incrementing a counter for each electrical signal sensed with the first electrode in the first monitoring period.
33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising:
resetting the counter;
incrementing the counter for each electrical signal sensed with the first electrode in the second monitoring period.
34. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising selecting a timing window duration as a function of the invalid senses in the first monitoring period and the second monitoring period.

Claims 35-38 (Canceled)

39. (Original) A method comprising:
sensing an electrical signal with a first electrode;
commencing a timing window;
inhibiting delivery of a pacing therapy by the first electrode subsequent to termination of an escape interval during the timing window; and
recording the electrical signal as a valid sense when a second electrode senses the electrical signal in the timing window.
40. (Original) The method claim 39, further comprising recording the electrical signal as an invalid sense when a second electrode fails to sense the electrical signal in the timing window.

Appl. N . 09/894,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 2, 2004
Page 9

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising ending the timing window and resetting an escape interval when the second electrode senses the electrical signal in the timing window.

42. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the first electrode is a left ventricular electrode and the second electrode is a right ventricular electrode.

Claim 43. (Canceled)

44. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
performing a morphological analysis of the electrical signal; and
recording the electrical signal as a valid sense as a function of the morphological analysis.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 39, further comprising counting the number of total electrical signals sensed with the first electrode during a monitoring period.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for causing a programmable processor to:
sense an electrical signal with a first electrode;
commence a timing window;
inhibiting delivery of a pacing therapy by the first electrode subsequent to termination of an escape interval during the timing window; and
record the electrical signal as a valid sense when a second electrode senses the electrical signal in the timing window.

47. (Original) The medium of claim 46, the instructions further causing the programmable processor to record the electrical signal as an invalid sense when a second electrode fails to sense the electrical signal in the timing window.

Appl. No. 09/994,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 2, 2004
Page 10

48. (Original) The medium of claim 46, the instructions further causing the programmable processor to end the timing window and reset an escape interval when the second electrode senses the electrical signal in the timing window.

49. (Original) The medium of claim 46, wherein the first electrode is a left ventricular electrode and the second electrode is a right ventricular electrode.

Claim 50. (Canceled)

51. (Original) The medium of claim 46, the instructions further causing the programmable processor to:

perform a morphological analysis of the electrical signal; and
record the electrical signal as a valid sense as a function of the morphological analysis.

52. (Original) The medium of claim 46, the instructions further causing the programmable processor to count the number of total electrical signals sensed with the first electrode during a monitoring period.

53. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first sensing means for placement proximal to a heart;
a second sensing means for placement proximal to the heart;
a therapy delivery means for delivering therapy to the heart; and
a controlling means for sensing an electrical signal with the first sensing means, ~~commences~~ commencing a timing window, inhibiting delivery of a pacing therapy by the therapy delivery means subsequent to termination of an escape interval during the timing window, and records recording the electrical signal as an invalid sense when the controller fails to sense the electrical signal with the second sensing means in the timing window.

Appl. N. 09/994,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 2, 2004
Pag 11

54. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein the controller means ends the timing window and resets an escape interval when the controller senses the electrical signal with the second sensing means in the timing window.

55. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein the controller means counts the number of invalid senses during a monitoring period and adjusts therapy as a function of the number of invalid senses during the monitoring period.

56. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein the controller means performs a morphological analysis of the electrical signal.

57. (Original) The system of claim 56, wherein the controller means includes a means for converting the electrical signal to a digital signal.

58. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein the controller means comprises a microprocessor.

59. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein the controller means comprises a sense amplifier means for providing a sensing threshold as a function of the measured amplitude of the electrical signal.

Claims 60-68. (Canceled)

Please **ADD** the following new claims:

69. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein inhibiting delivery of a pacing therapy comprises:

determining whether termination of the escape interval occurs a predetermined time period prior to expiration of the timing window;

Appl. No. 09/994,873
Amdt. dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 2, 2004
Page 12

inhibiting delivery of the pacing therapy in response to termination of the escape interval occurring within the predetermined time period; and
delivering the pacing therapy in response to termination of the escape interval not occurring within the predetermined time period.

70. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the controller determines whether termination of the escape interval occurs a predetermined time period prior to expiration of the timing window, inhibits delivery of the pacing therapy in response to termination of the escape interval occurring within the predetermined time period, and delivers the pacing therapy in response to termination of the escape interval not occurring within the predetermined time period.